DARK HORSE COMICS
40 YEARS

#2 of 4

THE WITCHER®

BLOOD STONE

DANIEL
FREEDMAN

PIUS
BAK

ROMAN
TITOV

HASSAN
OTSMANE-ELHAOU

CD PROJEKT RED®

THE WITCHER®

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2 OF 4

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THMP THMP

AH

FRRRTT

THMPTHN

AAH

WE'LL *BIND 'IM* IN THE OLD STABLE.

ALL GOOD PEOPLE, *huh?*

TRAGEDY, THIS IS. KNOWN BUDZIBOJ ALL ME LIFE. HIS FAMILY WERE ONE O' THE FIRST TO SETTLE 'ERE. HE'S NEVER DONE SUMMAT LIKE THIS.

DAMN YOH, WITCHER, STEALIN' ME TREASURE. YOH WAIT AND SEE...

...YOH'LL PAY!

DON'T MATTER. I KNOW WHERE TO GET MORE OF IT.

GERALT, YOU *MUST* 'ELP US. SOMETHIN' 'ERE'S *VERY WRONG.*

HERE TO HUNT YOUR GORGON, NOT--

BAKER-SMITH, YOUR *SON!* FOUND 'IM AND COBBLER YAN IN THE *HILLS!* YAN'S DEAD AND PETER'S *IN A BAD WAY!*

ME SON! WHY WERE 'E IN THE HILLS?

=Huff=

=Huff=

LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE A-DIGGIN' AT SOMETHIN' AND THEN YAN JUST DIED LIKE THE OTHERS.

IT'S THE MONSTER! WILL YOU 'ELP US NOW?

IT'S MINE OWN SON, GERALT!

WAS TOO 'EAVY FOR ME TO LIFT--

=Huff=

--IF WE 'URRY--

=Huff=

--I THINK WE CAN STILL SAVE PETER.

GET WATER AND BLANKETS WHILE I PREPARE A POTION.

GORGON'LL KILL US ALL IF I'M NOT READY.

I WAS OUT CHECKIN' THE TRAPS. SAW SOMEONE 'AD *TRAMPLED* THROUGH. THOUGHT IT WAS ONE O' THEM TREASURE 'UNTERS--

--but then I *seen 'em.*

NEVER 'AD PROBLEMS LIKE THIS. *TWO* DEATHS IN A DAY. AND NOW MY PETER...

W-WAIT, WHO *ELSE* IS DEAD?

BUDZIBOJ GOT IN A SCRAP WITH LEO.

AND 'E *KILLED* 'IM? BUT *WHY?*

CRUSHED HIS HEAD WITH HIS BARE HANDS OVER A STONE THAT LOOKED LIKE THE ONES FROM THE CAVE YESTERDAY.

WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT *THAT,* WOULD YOU?

No. NO, I-I *SWEAR* IT.

ARE YOU *SURE* IT'S THE *SAME* ONE? Do you 'ave it *with* you?

HID IT BEFORE WE LEFT.

THERE!

LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE DIGGING WHEN THE GORGON SHOWED UP.

WALKED STRAIGHT THROUGH. CAUGHT YAN BY SURPRISE. PETER *TRIED* TO RUN.

GERALT, 'E'S BREATHING, BUT IT'S SHALLOW. WHAT DO WE DO?

SEE IF YOU CAN'T GET SOME WATER IN HIM.

IF HE CAN DRINK, HE MIGHT LIVE.

HURRY, TAKE HIM TO THE BATHHOUSE. WARMTH AND STEAM'LL HELP OPEN HIS LUNGS.

COME, EVERYONE, THERE'S AN *ANNOUNCEMENT!*

GATHER ROUND!

LISTEN, *LISTEN!*

STRANGE. WE ONLY GATHER LIKE THAT WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE, OR 'OLIDAYS.

GO SEE WHILE I TEND TO BAKER'S SON.

THE REWARD FOR OUR FOREFATHERS' *TOILS* 'AS BEEN *DISCOVERED!*

HOW'S HE DOING, BAKER?

NOT AWAKE, BUT ***BREATHIN'***. STEAM SEEMS TO BE 'ELPIN'.

GOOD. KEEP HIM WARM. I'LL PREPARE A TONIC THAT SHOULD HELP HIS LUNGS.

THANKS BE TO YOU, GERALT.

FIRST, BUDZIBOJ, THEN YAN, AND NOW MY PETER. WHAT IS 'APPENING TO OUR PLINTH? THIS MAY BE TRULY THE ***WORST DAY*** IN OUR ***'ISTORY.***

WHERE ARE KATRIN AND PIA? DIDN'T SEE THEM IN THE CROWD OUTSIDE.

I'LL ASK THAT THEY BRING FRESH WATER FOR YOUR BOY.

Ah, shit--

THE LONG-LOST TREASURE OF THE DWARVES 'AS BEEN FOUND!

JULIA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EVERYONE! ALEKSANDER 'ERE'S THE ONE WHO FOUND THE TREASURE FIRST.

HE DESERVES OUR GRATITUDE!

HUZZAH!

HURRAH!

HUZZAH!

ALEKSANDER, OUR HERO!

HURRAH!

Ooh...

BUT JULIA... THERE'S NO *TREASURE.* THEM'S ONLY *ROCKS.*

EVERYONE, FOLLOW ME!

I WILL LEAD YOU TO THE *DWARVEN GOLD!*

VLLL

?

AAHH!

PIA! STOP!

SWISH

HRRR!

IT'S MINE! I FOUND IT! YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BACK!

BUDZIBOJ'S STONE...

PIA! CONTROL YOURSELF!

HOW DARE YOU SULLY ME! RELEASE ME, YOU FILTHY SWINE!

YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!

AAAH

How could Pia do this? And why?

HAD THE SAME *YELLOW GLINT* IN HER EYES AS BUDZIBOJ.

THESE DAMNED ROCKS...

...THEY'RE MAKING PEOPLE *CRAZY.*

A *CURSE,* GOTTA BE...

WAIT! THAT'S THE STONE JULIA TOOK...

YOU *LIED* TO ME THEN.

TELL ME THE *TRUTH.* *ALL* OF IT.

NOW.

"SHE...SHE'S NEVER EXCITED BY THE GIFTS I BRING 'ER. I THOUGHT SHE'D BE *IMPRESSED* BY THE CAVE.

"AND SHE WAS. SHE WAS *SPEECHLESS.*

"MORE THAN ANYTHIN', SHE WANTED A STONE AS A *MEMENTO.*

"I TOLD 'ER WE *SHOULDN'T* TOUCH 'EM. THAT THEY'RE SPECIAL TO THE DWARVES, TO BE *RESPECTED.*

"SHE SAID SHE AGREED. AND THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SHE KISSED ME.

"I WAS SO SHOOK I DIDN'T EVEN SEE SHE'D *TAKEN A STONE* UNTIL WE WERE 'ALFWAY 'OME."

AND NOW SHE'S LEADIN' THE WHOLE TOWN TO THE CAVE.

I WORRY THEY'LL TAKE ***MORE*** STONES BELIEVIN' THEY'S TREASURE.

NEED TO STOP THEM. CAN'T LET THEM TOUCH THOSE ROCKS.

GERALT, WAIT. WHAT 'BOUT ME SON?

DAMN IT!

ALEKSANDER, GO, STOP THEM FROM TOUCHING ***ANYTHING*** IN THE CAVE, BUT BE CAREFUL. THIS CURSE ***CHANGES*** PEOPLE.

"I'LL CATCH UP AFTER I MAKE THIS TONIC FOR BAKER'S BOY."

Oh, no...

WE'RE ALL RICH!

BLESS YOU, YOU BEAUTIFUL LASS!

YOU'VE DELIVERED US INTO FORTUNE!

WE MUST BRING YOUR FATHER SOME O' THIS TREASURE. HE WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG!

PLEASE, STOP! WE CAN'T DO THIS! THERE'S SOMETHIN' OFF ABOUT THE STONES!

AVA. YOUR SON, PETER, 'AS TAKEN ILL. POISONED BY LORD HEAVY HORN. BAKER-SMITH AND THE WITCHER ARE HELPING 'IM. YOU MUST COME--

SHUT YOUR GOB, BOY!

STOP SPOILIN' OUR ENRICHMENT!

PUT ME DOWN! PLEASE, DON'T!

JUST TAKE YOUR PRIZE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO GO ROUND.

SLASH

TONIC'S READY. SHOULD COUNTERACT THE POISON AND REOPEN HIS LUNGS.

Please, work, *please...*

KOFF KAFF

MY BOY IS SAVED! I OWE YOU ME LIFE.

NEED TO GET TO THE CAVE.

AYE, COURSE. *GO.* DO WHAT YOU MUST. THANK YOU, GERALT. THANK YOU FOR ALL TIME.

BMP

OI!
WATCH OUT--

DAMN YE, WITCHER. MAKIN' A MOGER O' ME NEXT STEW NOW, ARE YE?

SORRY. DIDN'T SEE YOU.

AYE, MUST BE HARD TO SEE THE TRUTH FROM ALL THE WAY UP THERE.

WHAT TRUTH?

THAT THIS TOWN'S FINISHED!

WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?

Oh, YE CAN SENSE IT. I KEN YE DO. THIS TOWN-- IT'S ***DOOMED.***

'CAUSE OF THE STONES? YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CURSE?

RUN, GERALT.

RUN WHILE YE ***STILL CAN.***

ONLY THAT NO ONE 'ERE'LL ***LAST*** THE ***WEEK.***

THMP THMP THMP

FRSH

SKRSHH

WHAT NOW?

!

...shit.

To be continued...

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"